1 MARGARET HART EDWARDS, Bar No. 65699 JOSHUA D. KIENITZ, Bar No. 244903 2 LITTLER MENDELSON A Professional Corporation 3 650 California Street 20th Floor 4 San Francisco, CA 94108.2693 415.433.1940 Telephone: 5 Facsimile: 415.358.4566 6 Attorneys for Defendant GEORGIA-PACIFIC LLC 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 **EOUAL EMPLOYMENT** Case No. C 07 3944 SBA OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, 11 **DECLARATION OF BILL YEAGER IN** Plaintiff. SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S 12 OPPOSITION TO CHARGING PARTY JANET STEGE'S MOTION TO ٧. ٠ 13 INTERVENE GEORGIA-PACIFIC LLC, 14 March 4, 2008 Date: Defendant. Time: 1:00 p.m. 15 Courtroom: 3 Judge: The Hon. Saundra B. Armstrong 16 I, Bill Yeager, hereby declare: 17 I am an Area Human Resources Manager for Georgia-Pacific Corrugated, 1. 18 LLC ("Corrugated"). I provide HR services for several facilities in Northern California. I am not an 19 employee of Georgia-Pacific Holdings, LCC. 20 2. On February 9, 2006, while employed as a Strapper Operator, Janet Stege 21 gave plant superintendent Alex Reyes a handwritten note indicating that her job was "exasperating" 22 her medical condition. In this letter, Stege requested, as a "reasonable accommodation," either: (1) 23 that Corrugated fix the equipment on which Stege was working; or (2) that Corrugated transfer Stege 24 to another machine. In response, Alex Reyes and I met with Stege to discuss possible options for a 25 reasonable accommodation. A true and correct copy of Stege's February 9, 2006 letter is attached 26 hereto as Exhibit A. 27 As a result of our meetings with Stege, on February 17, 2006, we signed a 3. 28 LITTLER MENDELSON YEAGER DECL. ISO DEF'S OPPOSITION 1. Case No. C 07 3944 SBA ROFESSIONAL CONFORMING BSE DANIOURIE Stree: 200: Floor FILECIOCO, CA 94108.2592 415.433.1940 TO MOTION TO INTERVENE

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letter of agreement with Stege and Union chief steward Raymond Murray, memorializing that Stege had expressed a desire to move to the Cascader Department and that Corrugated and Stege agreed that Stege could perform all the essential functions of that job without adversely affecting her medical condition. Stege chose the Assistant Operator position over the Rover position. A true and correct copy of this February 16, 2006 letter agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

- 4. We understood, certainly by February 2006, as did Stege and the Union, that the mandatory overtime question had been settled, for better or worse, back in April 2004. During our meetings with Stege around this time, Stege gave absolutely no indication that she intended to file a lawsuit. We believed that we had negotiated a reasonable accommodation that was acceptable to both Stege and the Union — a belief that I feel was amply justified by the signatures on the letter agreement. If we had known that Stege still claimed that the only reasonable accommodation was one which allowed her a strict 40-hour per week schedule, there would have been a different accommodation discussion.
- 5. Only Corrugated has the power to hire and fire employees at the San Leandro plant, including Stege. Only Corrugated has the power to determine Stege's work schedule and compensation. All day-to-day operations at Corrugated's San Leandro plant are controlled by Corrugated's managers, such as Plant Superintendent Alex Reyes and HR Generalist Curtis Kimbro (Mr. Kimbro is the custodian of records at the San Leandro plant). Kimbro and Reyes, and all other managers at the San Leandro plant, are employees of Corrugated - not Holdings. Corrugated maintains Stege's employment records. Holdings plays no role in any of these actions.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this // th day of February, 2008 at San Leandro, California.

William A. (BILLYYEAGER

2. Case No. C 07 3944 SBA

## **EXHIBIT A**

FEB. 9, 2006

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

TAM ASKING FOR A REASONABLE

ACCOMMODATION BY EITHER GETTING

THE EQUIPMENT I WORK ON FIXED

OR TRANSFERRING OFFTHE MACHINE

TO MAKE THIS MOVE, BUT THE

CONDITIONS I WORK UNDER ARE

ONLY EXASPERATING MY MEDICAL

CONDITION, ALSO, NOT HAVING A

PEWEF FOR BREAKS OR LUNCH

AND LEFT TO REVENE ONE ANOTHER

MICHES IT DIFFICULT TO BE LEFT

HIONE TO RUN TWO MACHINES

Janet Stege STRAPPER OP.

## **EXHIBIT B**





Georgia-Pacific Corporation San Francisco Bay Packaging 2800 Alvarado St San Leandro, CA 94577 (510) 895-7807

February 17, 2006

Janet Stege Strapper Operator 2800 Alvarado St San Leandro, CA 94577

RE: Response to Request for Reasonable Accommodation

Dear Janet.

On February 9, 2006, you presented a request for a reasonable accommodation due to a medical condition. Although we are not making a determination as to whether you are an individual with a disability, we are willing to accommodate your request. Therefore, pursuant to your request, you will be transferred to the Cascader Department effective February 21, 2006, as either a Rover or an Assistant Operator. You will inform Alex Reyes, Converting Superintendent, of which position you desire by February 24. 2006.

When you requested an accommodation we discussed possible options. You expressed a desire to transfer to the Cascader Department since you could perform all of the essential functions of the job and your medical condition would not be adversely affected. Alex Reyes investigated the option and found a way to make the transfer work that is reasonable for the Company. Your transfer is taking place solely because of a medical condition and in no way is a negative reflection of your past job performance. Therefore, should you decide to accept a Rover position, your pay rate (the same rate as General Labor) will not change in June 2006 when a rate adjustment takes place to the General Labor position. Of course, if you decide to accept an Assistant Operator position your wage rate will be the rate paid to other Assistant Operators in the Cascader Department.

If an equipment configuration change occurs to the Strapper position in the future that would permit you to perform the essential functions of that job without adversely affecting your medical condition, management will allow you to transfer back to the Strapper position when the next available vacancy exists. However, we will not displace another employee to facilitate your transfer back to the Strapper position.

Your signature below indicates that you requested the transfer during an interactive conversation about your request for a reasonable accommodation, and that you agree to the terms of the transfer.

If you experience any difficulties in performing the job in the Cascader Department, notify your supervisor or superintendent immediately.

Area HR Manager

Strapper Operator

Alejandro Reyes Converting Superintendent

Chief Union Steward